

To: Stalcup, Dana[Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov]; Deitz, Randy[Deitz.Randy@epa.gov]; Wells, Suzanne[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov]
From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Thur 10/22/2015 9:29:13 PM
Subject: Re: Answers to OPA questions

Page 7 of the internal review report addresses this issue (bullet 2)

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From: Stalcup, Dana
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 5:25 PM
To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.; Deitz, Randy; Wells, Suzanne
Subject: RE: Answers to OPA questions

This is not an official answer, but....

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

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From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.

Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 5:18 PM

To: Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov>; Wells, Suzanne <Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov>

Cc: Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Answers to OPA questions

Thanks, Randy! This is so helpful. We forgot that OPA added a new #1:

1. **Could you please respond to the assertion that the blowout would not have occurred had the EPA taken the time to determine the level of the mine pool prior to excavation work at the site? This appears to be in contrast to the EPA's prior assertion that the spill was "likely inevitable."**

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From: Deitz, Randy
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 5:10 PM
To: Wells, Suzanne
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Subject: Answers to OPA questions

Here are my draft responses. They were taken from the EPA Internal Review or from Congressional QFR responses.

1. What do you say about the report's finding that EPA did not focus on the engineering factors associated with the mine work, that we focused on the environmental factors?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

2. Why did excavation work begin even though the agency project manager wanted BOR input before excavation work started?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

3. Why didn't we use a drill bore to accurately gauge water level? (Was cost the main factor? How were site conditions different at R&B vs GKM?)

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

4. Why didn't we incorporate the feedback we got from BOR when we shared our plan from Red & Bonita (R&B) mine?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

5. Why didn't we have a detailed blow-out plan?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

6. What specifically was the mining and engineering experience of those responsible for developing the plan, and those on the site at the time of the blow-out?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

7. Does EPA have the engineering expertise to do mine work?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Randy Deitz

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